

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CENTENNIAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH


FITZPATRICK BAPTIST CHURCH,
BULLOCK COUNTY, ALA.,
OCT. 5, 6, 7, 1899.

OFFICERS

GEORGE WILLIAMS,	- - - - -	Moderator.
F. O. BICKLEY	- - - - -	Clerk.
B. T. ELEY	- - - - -	Treasurer.

The next session of the Association will be held with Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Bullock County, Alabama, commencing on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, 1900.

UNION SPRINGS, ALA. :
HERALD PRINT,
1899



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The Centennial Baptist Association convened with Fitzpatrick Church, Bullock County, in the Twenty-fourth Annual Session, at 11 o'clock a. m., October 5th, 1899.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. G. L. Yates. Text, Rev. 1:18, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

AFTERNOON SESSION—2 O'CLOCK.

Devotional exercises conducted by Eld. W. J. Elliott, after which the Association was called to order by the Moderator, George Williams.

The first thing in order being the reading of the letters from the different churches, the same were called for, and, on motion the reading was postponed until the following morning.

The election of officers was also postponed until the following morning.

The Moderator appointed a committee on Religious exercises, as follows: J. A. Beverly, J. D. Brooks, and the pastor and delegates of Fitzpatrick Church.

The committee on religious exercises announced that Rev. W. R. Adams would preach in the evening at 7:30 o'clock.

The Moderator announced that the Association would meet each day at 9 o'clock a. m.; adjourn at 11 for preaching, and meet at 2 p. m., and adjourn at will.

A motion to adjourn prevailed, and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. W. J. Elliott.

FRIDAY—9 O'CLOCK A. M.

Devotional exercises conducted by S. O. Y. Ray. After which the Moderator called the Association to order, and the minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

The body proceeded to the election of officers, and on motion the rule was suspended ~~and the clerk~~ authorized to cast the ballot for the present officers, viz.: Brothers George Williams, Moderator; F. O. Bickley, Clerk; and B. T. Eley, Treasurer.

The names of the messengers were enrolled as follows:
ABERFOIL CHURCH—J. A. Beverly and C. W. Pitts.

FAIRVIEW—Not Represented.

FITZPATRICK—Rev. G. L. Yates, W. C. Hufham, James Yates, G. R. Knight and John Gray.

GREENWOOD—R. F. Kirby, G. W. Davis and W. E. Eubanks.

HARDAWAY—C. A. Davis, J. D. Brooks, S. W. Garner and T. D. Adams.

INDIAN CREEK—J. S. Finlayson, W. C. Cope, J. P. Cope, G. A. Norris and A. A. Cope.

LIBERTY—W. A. Powell and T. M. Hough.

LOFLIN CHURCH—E. A. Brooks, F. M. Boyd and James Hightower.

MACEDONIA—Thos. Rotten, J. L. Brooks, and W. A. C. May.

MIDWAY—J. P. Downing and W. L. O'Neill.

MT. CARMEL—J. P. Rotton, J. E. Jenkins, James Jones and L. P. McLauren.

MT. ZION—J. H. Cogdell, V. H. Tillery and W. B. Grider.

PEROTE—Rev. G. W. Harrison and F. O. Bickley.

SARDIS—J. L. Childs.

UNION SPRINGS—W. M. Thornton, T. M. Gholston, A. W. Beverly, D. A. Caylor, Geo. F. Carlisle, George Williams, Rev. A. P. Pugh, A. B. Strickland, and T. J. Deau.

Names of correspondents and agents enrolled as follows: Eufaula Association:—Rev. S. O. Y. Ray and Brother W. C. Jordan; Tuskegee Association: W. R. Adams; Montgomery Association: Rev. A. F. Dix and G. G. Miles.

Rev. G. S. Anderson representing the Institute Work, Rev. J. W. Stewart of the Orphans' Home, W. B. Crumpton corresponding secretary of the State Board of Missions, and Rev. J. A. Howard agent for the Alabama Baptist, were present.

Committee on Home Missions read their report, and its discussion was postponed.

The hour for preaching having arrived, the Association took a recess; after which Brother W. J. Elliott announced that the Fitzpatrick Church asks for the ordination of Brother G. L. Yates to the full work of the ministry; that a presbytery consisting of Elders W. B. Crumpton, A. F. Dix, A. P. Pugh, and W. J. Elliott, had examined Brother Yates and recommended that he be ordained. Brother Crumpton preached the ordination sermon, after which Brother Yates was set apart to the full work of the ministry.

AFTERNOON SESSION—2 O'CLOCK.

Devotional exercises conducted by Brother G. G. Miles, after which the Moderator called the Association to order.

The Moderator then announced the following special committees:

On Finance—W. C. Hufham, J. H. Cogdell, and J. A. Beverly.

On Nominations—J. E. Jenkins, T. M. Gholston, and G. W. Davis.

On Documents—J. H. Cogdell, J. S. Finlayson, and J. L. Childs.

On Auditing—J. A. Beverly, R. F. Kirby, and J. P. Cope

The report of Committee on the Orphans' Home was read and adopted:

REPORT ON ORPHANS' HOME.

We, your committee, beg leave to submit the following report: The Baptist Widows' and Orphans' Home of Alabama was temporarily established at Evergreen, March 10, 1893, in a small rented house, under the management of the present financial secretary, Bro. J. W. Stewart. Afterward, Evergreen was chosen as a permanent location. The Home consists of 80 acres of land and a large brick building of 21 rooms, with adequate water works and a complete system of sanitation. Up to this time, the property purchased and cost of repairs, makes the Home worth about \$10,000. The Home is situated on Main Street, next door to Agricultural School, where no tuition is charged, and where all the children attend that are old enough. The boys are taught to work on the farm, and the girls to do various kinds of house work. The crop the boys were making this year was greatly damaged by a hail-storm in June. During these seven years there have come into the home 120 children; some have died and some have returned to their parents. The health record is very good. There remain in the Home 29 boys and 31 girls. These children come from 24 counties in this state. The Home was free from debt one year ago, and dedicated to God October 20th, 1898. Mrs. C. W. Ansley, who had been matron since the Home began, retired from the work at the beginning of this year, and Mrs. Jennie M. Hardy, of Greensboro, was elected to fill that position. The children have been put in uniform, which adds much to their appearance and is no more expensive than their former dress. The Home is behind \$1,000 on the current expenses of this year on account of the small contributions that have been sent in. There have been no improvements to the building this year, except that a small room has been fitted up in the third story for a linen department and one room to be divided into 28 or 30 wardrobes to be given to the girls. These repairs will cost \$150, half of this amount will remain unpaid until the work is finished. Sister Hardy, the matron, has arranged one of the rooms for a chapel, and every Sunday afternoon a happy band make melody in their hearts to the Lord. This Home is the property of the great Baptist

family of Alabama, and each association, church and individual Baptist should be ever ready to serve the Lord with our substance, and by so doing we will be able to maintain this our deserving Institution.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. BEVERLY, Chairman.

A cash collection was taken amounting to \$20.75 and pledges taken as follows:

Aberfoil Church.....	\$ 2.50
Fairview.....	
Fitzpatrick.....	5.00
Greenwood, 10 Gals. syrup.....	4.00
Hardaway.....	2.00
Indian Creek.....	5.00
Liberty.....	5.00
Loflin.....	2.50
Macedonia.....	
Midway.....	5.00
Mt. Carmel.....	5.00
Mt. Zion.....	2.50
Perote.....	5.00
Sardis.....	
Union Springs.....	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 53.50

On motion Brother G. S. Anderson was requested to speak in the interest of the Institute work, after which a cash collection was taken, amounting to \$5.05, and pledges were made as follows:

Hardaway Church.....	\$ 5.00
Liberty.....	2.50
Midway.....	4.00
Mt. Zion.....	2.00
Union Springs.....	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 23.50

Brother T. M. Gholston offered the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved, That the churches comprising the Centennial Association use their best efforts to raise all the contributions possible for the Institute work during the next Associational year.

Reports on State and Foreign Missions were read and discussion deferred.

The committee on Religious Exercises announced that Bro. Crumpton would preach to-night, at 7 o'clock.

Adjourned with benediction by Brother Anderson.

7 o'clock, p. m. The Association reconvened and, instead of preaching, Brother Crumpton delivered an address on Missions. Further discussion was deferred until to-morrow morning. Benediction by Brother Crumpton.

SATURDAY MORNING—8 O'CLOCK.

Devotional exercises conducted by Brother J. P. Downing.

The Association was called to order, and the Minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

The report on Deceased, Aged and Infirm ministers, and their families was read and adopted, and a cash collection was taken for Brother Crawley's family, amounting to \$4.11.

The committee on the State of the Churches and the Associational field read their report which was adopted.

REPORT ON STATE OF CHURCHES AND ASSOCIATIONAL FIELD.

Your Committee on State of Churches and Associational Field make the following report:

So far as we have been able to ascertain, the churches, except one—Greenwood, have had preaching regularly during the year. Some of the churches have reported revival meetings, during the revival season.

Just what the field work has been, we are unable to report: but think it highly probable, that it has not been, altogether, as good as it might have been.

Your Committee is of the opinion that there is a great lagging in all church work, because of a lack of the Spirit of the Master, on the part of church members.

What would be pleasing to the Father would be to see His children giving more liberally of their means to the propagation of the Gospel throughout, to the ends of the earth: and praying, more earnestly, "that His kingdom come, and that His will be done in earth as it is in Heaven."

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. DOWNING, Chairman.

Report of the Committee on Institute Work was read and adopted.

REPORT ON INSTITUTE WORK.

We, your Committee on Institute Work, are pleased to be able to report that we have had Institute Work in the bounds of our Association during the year, and the great good to our ministers who have had lack of educational ad-

vantages. We speak of the work with great pride, as we contemplate, in the near future, the great good which shall come to the Baptist denomination through this institute work. To continue this good work, which is so helpful to the preacher, we recommend that this Association give liberally to this work. There were 13 institutes held during this year and one more to be held. One hundred and seventy-seven preachers attended these institutes and forty-five are taking correspondence courses. May the Lord bless this great and good work.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. HARRISON, Chairman.

A collection was taken, and pledges made as follows:

Hardaway Church.....	\$ 5.00
Loflin.....	1.00
Liberty.....	2.50
Midway.....	4.00
Mt. Zion.....	2.00
Union Springs.....	10.00
And in Cash.....	5.05

Total \$ 29.55

The report on Temperance was read, and, after a free discussion was adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following report: We do not hold up the dispensary as a model measure for the solution of the whiskey question; indeed, to our mind, no measure that anticipates anything other than total extermination, will prove a solution to the question. But, the dispensary seems to us one step, however feeble it may be, in the right direction. No great reform is accomplished in a day. Let us, then, take courage and be impatient (not patient, lest we lose the ground already taken). That the temperance cause is gaining ground, is noticeable on all sides. Men of all walks of life are awakening to the fact that the rum traffic is a gigantic monster, akin to the liquid fire of nethermost hell, seeking whom it may devour; that it maddens the brain, dethrones reason, saps the vitality, and possesses the soul with demons legion. There are deeper sentiment, firmer convictions, and stronger determination among all evangelical denominations against the rum traffic. Give us a strictly temperate and determined church membership and the rum traffic will go speedily. One of the leading lights of the Methodist denomination re-

cently said: "No law enforces itself. We may lash ourselves into fury, we may shout and preach, but the good is lost when we stay away from the polls. We must demand the enforcement of the law. Let citizens of every color, race, politics, and creed unite in the effort against the saloon. Let us unite to secure not only the enthronement, but the enforcement of the law that will save the youths of the country from the greatest curse of the world." We repeat, that the temperance cause is gaining ground. The devil, in his mad rush for the destruction of human souls, seems to have overdone the thing, for we see the rum trafficker in his mad, covetous desire for filthy lucre, so adulterating and poisoning his rum as to make most degraded, drunken sots look aghast, and the more modest flee as from a mighty demon when they would imbibe its deathly poison. We see 5,363 out of the 7,000 manufacturing and railroad incorporations in the United States refusing to employ drinking men under any circumstances, and all others preferring sober, to drinking men. However, when we turn to the dark side, we see that it far surpasses and overshadows the bright side. We see men who have professed Christ as their Savior, who will indulge the drink habit to that extent which not only belies their own manhood, disgraces their own household and dishonors the sacred altar before which they, in the presence of God and man, plighted their faith, but justly merits, and receives, the condemnation of all the true Israel of God, and the more decent and intelligent of the world. We see that the annual expenditure for alcoholic beverages runs high up into the billions. We see that there are over 600,000 homes made desolate annually in the United States by the rum traffic. We see that the rum traffic is responsible for 25% of the paupers in our towns and cities. That 37% of all the occupants of almshouses charge their condition to whiskey. That 42% of the male and 16½% of the female paupers were reduced to poverty by personal use of whiskey. That an additional 6% of the men and 13% of the women owe their poverty to intemperance of others. That 31% of the persons in our penitentiaries assign as the first cause of their crimes intemperance. That intemperance figures in the crimes of 50% of all the inmates of our penitentiaries. That 40,000 persons are engaged in the manufacture of intoxicants, and a much larger force in distributing it in the United States, the wholesale value of which is \$300,000,000, which retails at more than \$900,000,000. This is equal to the entire cotton crop of the United States for the last three years. That it sent to perdition,

last year, 500,000 souls, ruined 100,000 young men and women, and made 200,000 orphans. From the report of the commissioner of international revenue we get the following, which covers the last annual report for the United States: Money spent for Christian missions (home and foreign) and clergymen's salaries, \$103,500,000; for boots, shoes, cotton and woolen goods, \$644,000,000; for meat and bread, \$808,000,000; for iron, steel, and sawed lumber, \$529,000,000; for liquor, \$900,000,000. Again, in New York City alone, for all denominational purposes and city government, \$16,000,000; for liquor, \$100,000,000. May the great Head of the Church so elect and so direct that His followers may, as a unit, combine themselves into one mighty host against the drink evil, and so insist upon their legitimate, religious, moral, and social right until the world is rid of the last vestige of the liquor traffic.

Respectfully submitted,
D. A. CAYLOR, Chairman.

The report on Religious Literature was read and adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Your Committee beg leave to say:

The sorest need of our country youth is wholesome, healthful literature. Many times, in bright and comfortable homes, are to be found no better reading for bright boys and girls than the county paper and a few dry, musty volumes.

Parents who labor dilligently that they may leave property for each child will starve the mental nature and dwarf the whole life of their children by withholding the small sum necessary to provide them with proper reading.

The great moral battles of the future are to be waged very largely through the medium of newspapers, tracts, and books. If we are to win and hold the world for truth and righteousness, we must be more dilligent than ever in circulating a sound and wholesome literature. If good literature is not put into the hands of our children they will read bad literature. To this end we recommend the importance of having faithful Colporters in the field, placing good books and tracts in the homes of the people. Or, as would in many cases be as well, the country pastors may be themselves the Colporters and accomplish this end in their regular visitations. Of course every faithful pastor will see that a copy of the Alabama Baptist and Foreign Mission Journal goes as nearly as possible to every home.

Let us not forget the offer of the Foreign Mission Board

to send mission tracts free to any church or individual who wishes them.

The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention continues to furnish for Sunday Schools the best literature in the world at exceedingly low prices. Your committee would be glad to know that all the Sunday Schools in the territory of this whole Southland were using this literature.

We urge the importance of circulating any literature among the people that will stimulate a greater interest in the Holy Bible.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. DAVIS, Chairman.

The report of the Executive Committee was also read and adopted.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee met in the basement of the Baptist church of Union Springs, , 1899. The subject considered was the collecting of unpaid pledges made at the last Association for Ministerial Education and to raise additional money for that purpose. Bro. F. O. Bickley was requested to address a circular letter to the churches of the Association on this subject.

Another meeting was held in the Baptist church at Union Springs, on June 20, 1899. The pastor of this church, Rev. A. P. Pugh, was requested to address a personal letter to the other pastors and, also, that Bro. F. O. Bickley address another circular letter to the churches for the purpose of raising additional money for Ministerial Education.

M. N. ELEY, Chairman.

F. O. BICKLEY, Secretary.

On motion a committee was appointed consisting of Brethren A. P. Pugh, T. M. Gholston, J. E. Jenkins, and J. S. Finlayson to apportion between the churches of the Association a supposed reasonable amount that each church should contribute for Missions and all denominational purposes during the next Associational year, and the committee reported as follows:

REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT.

The committee on apportionment beg leave to report as follows: Aberfoil \$15, Fairview \$25, Fitzpatrick \$50, Greenwood \$15, Hardaway \$30, Indian Creek \$50, Loftin \$30, Liberty \$35, Macedonia \$25, Midway \$25, Perote \$25, Mt. Carmel \$50, Mt. Zion \$50, Sardis \$20, Union Springs \$250. Total \$695.

A. P. PUGH, Chairman.

The reports on Missions were taken from the table and adopted:

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Even a casual survey of the extent, needs, and possibilities of the field sought to be covered by the home board, puts a Christian, some what at least, in sympathy with the Master's words: Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest.

To plant new churches, to foster weak ones, and to educate and develop Christians in the entire South and Cuba, is the stupendous task set before this board; nor will it rest content until this vast territory is evangelized and trained for God's service.

In last year's work 372 missionaries, who accomplished 11,075 weeks of labor, 48,508 sermons and addresses, received 9,455 additions, constituted 139 churches, and built and improved 186 houses of worship, to say nothing of the Sunday schools established, literature distributed, schools helped and much other work for the advancement of the Master's kingdom.

The work this year has greatly increased: 653 missionaries who accomplished 17,424 weeks of labor, made 64,718 sermons and addresses, received 12,983 additions, constituted 194 churches, built and improved 344 houses of worship, Sunday schools organized 512, teachers and pupils 14,768, Bibles and Testaments distributed 17,104.

More than ever the important needs, and measureless possibilities of the work done by this agency are forcing themselves upon the attention of thoughtful Christian men, and the wonder now is that the imperative demand for its existence could ever have been questioned.

Take Louisiana, for example, with a population of a million and a half, and 32,000 white Baptists with a large district of country in which there are no Baptist churches and the pure Gospel is never heard. With New Orleans, the largest city on our sea coast south of Baltimore, and having only three white Baptist churches, and those small and weak, only one of them being able to fully sustain a pastor, and, upon which states Dr. Riley, who recently visited it and saw a part of the destitution, declared that the home mission board could easily expend its entire income. Could it ever be served for the truth and for God, but for the help of the home board?

There is nearly as great destitution in some localities, even greater, if possible, in Arkansas, Florida, Indian Ter-

ritory, Oklahoma, Arizona, and generally the vast frontier country.

The office of the home board is, with motherly care, to overlook the entire territory of the South and Cuba, to hear the cry of the weaker children for the bread of life which she gathered from the stronger, and at the same time not to neglect the growth of any of them. Indeed, to do the work, a great part of which cannot even be mentioned, which is imperatively demanded and to which your committee believes God calls every loyal lover of the truth, the following matters must receive attention:

1st. As the Apostles planted the Gospel in Jerusalem, Antioch, and Rome, so we must capture and hold the large cities in our territory: these mighty centers of power and influence must be conquered and held for Christ, or they will drive us from the face of the earth.

2nd. We must be first on the ground when cities are to be built; within the next century they will spring up nearly everywhere.

3rd. It seems inevitable that a crisis in Cuba is not far off, and a curse worse than that pronounced against Meroy would fall upon us if we do not meet the emergency with sufficient force to capture the land for God who has has given it to us for an inheritance.

4th. The vast unnumbered host of Baptists in the mountain regions of Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky, must be held and educated for God, or they will fall prey to the Mormons whose four hundred missionaries, with Chattanooga as headquarters, are trying by the perversion of Scripture and other iniquitous schemes to capture these uneducated people. This mighty throng are ours by right and preference, but if we fail to hold them with the forces of education and culture, we will lose a great number of them.

5th. Since 1855, 15,000,000 un-Americans and unChristian foreigners have come to our shores, and these must be converted by the Gospel or they will turn and rend us, but by the spirit of Christianity they will become mighty factors in carrying the Master's commands on different shores.

When will God's people cease parlying at, and get to work for the advancement of His kingdom? Shall the time ever come when the redeemed hosts of God will have in them the mind which also was in Christ Jesus who gave all. God in mercy has given us means, by his spirit has called the workers, and by his might has opened the doors? How shall these means with which to sustain his army take the world for his kingdom, and hasten his glorious second coming? is

the burning question that should fire our hearts with zeal, capture our lives with consecration and bring us to the throne with yearning cries.

J. D. Brooks, Chairman.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee report as follows. Some of our people have strange notions in regard to the mission question. Christ said to his disciples "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Some people will argue that they believe in State Missions, but not Home Missions nor Foreign Missions. Such people have only a faint idea of what the Savior meant when He gave His followers the command quoted above. The great Savior of mankind did not see fit to divide the subject into State, Home, and Foreign Missions, but he certainly covered all the ground when he said "all the world." We simply divide it in this way for convenience sake, and now address ourselves to the State part of it.

Our State Mission work in Alabama is controlled by quite a number of our wisest and best men, men who are consecrated to the service of our Master.

Dr. W. C. Bledsoe, who was our State Secretary for about three years, worked very faithfully, and notwithstanding the pressure brought to bear on the people from a financial standpoint, he succeeded in almost freeing our board from debt. His health failed and he was forced to give up the work. We are glad to state, however, that Dr. W. B. Crumpton, who was secretary for ten years, before going to Kentucky, has returned to our state, and is again, to the delight of his brethren, engaged in the same work, at the same old stand. His troubles recently were heavy, but his smiles are just as bright, and his words just as cheering as they were in days gone by. We give him a hearty welcome to our state and pray God's blessings upon him and his work.

It was suggested by the State Board of Missions, at the last state convention at Opelika, that the Board: 1. Assist weak churches in sustaining suitable pastors. 2. Employ evangelists as opportunity offers and the means are furnished. 3. To hold rallies for the discussion of our denominational work, and in addition to use the public press as may best avail, and to institute any other agencies that may seem best.

The board, up to a few months ago, had several evangelists in the field, but on account of the financial condition of the Board some of these brethren had to be taken from

the field. At this time we have only two bretheren who are doing evangelistic work for the Board. They are Brethren A. J. Preston and J. W. Sandlin. These consecrated bretheren are doing good work for the Master.

We failed to mention, at the proper time, that our Board is now out of debt. Brethren, in God's name, let us stay out of debt. And let us strive, God being our helper, through our State Mission Board and the other agencies of the denomination, to give the precious Gospel of Jesus to the world.

Respectfully submitted,
J. A. JENKINS, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The God of all grace has ordained that his people, everywhere, and under all the conditions in which they may be placed, shall be missionary. Paul and Bunyon and Judson in darkest dungeon are still the ambassadors of the cross. But Foreign Missions holds the first place of importance in the work of evangelizing men. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," is the command which the Head of the Church has left with his servants. The first missionary of Salvation was a Foreign Missionary. Christ left heaven and came to earth that men might be saved from their sins. Paul and Barnabas were called of the Holy Spirit and set apart by the church at Antioch, first Gentile church, as Foreign Missionaries. From that time until this the Baptists have been prominent in the work of Foreign Missions.

Our Foreign Mission Board, located at Richmond, Va., having Dr. R. J. Willingham as secretary, has this important work in hand. The following are some items as to the work of this Board.

In China there are 22 churches and 35 stations; 40 American missionaries and 55 native helpers; baptized last year, 427; entire membership in China, 1802. Contributions, \$1802.03.

In Africa there are 6 churches and 6 stations; 6 American missionaries and 10 native helpers; baptized last year, 37; whole membership, 341. Contributions, \$654.87.

In Mexico there are 26 churches and 39 stations; 10 American missionaries and 19 helpers; baptisms last year, 45; whole membership, 1091. Contributions, \$89.50.

In Brazil there are 23 churches and 30 stations; 18 American missionaries and 17 native helpers; baptisms last year, 285; whole membership, 1524. Contributions, \$4302.00.

In Japan there are 1 church and 9 stations; 7 missionaries and 9 native helpers; baptisms last year, 13; whole membership, 71. Contributions, \$76.00.

Thus it will be seen that our Southern Baptist Convention has in its Foreign Mission field: churches, 100; Stations, 140; American missionaries, 82; native helpers, 128; baptized last year, 845; whole membership, 5347. Contributions, \$7110.20.

During the last year the Board appointed 16 new missionaries; 9 have retired from the work, leaving a gain of 7 additional missionaries on the field. Southern Baptists, numbering, 1,644,363 whites, gave to this work last year, \$109,267.23; Alabama, which has 126,158 white Baptists, gave last year, \$5,818.89. The average donation of Southern Baptists was 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ cents each; the average of Alabama Baptists was 4 cents and 6 mills. Christ says to his churches, "I know thy works," Rev. 2:2. What is the record on high concerning us?

Besides the missionaries on the field there are a number of well qualified young ladies and men who are willing to go as missionaries to Foreign fields as soon as the Board can send them. Those already on the field are cheerful and hopeful and consecrated; so the work moves on more prosperously than ever before.

These are some items of interest. Alabama Baptists, and especially the Baptists of the Centennial Association, should give much more largely for Foreign Missions than they do.

All who want literature can procure it free from the Foreign Board, Richmond, Va., on condition that they read, and circulate it wisely. The Baptist Mission Rooms, Baltimore, Md., keep a large supply of missionary literature. Write Miss A. W. Armstrong for particulars; care of the rooms.

Quite a number of our churches in the South are supporting each a foreign missionary.

There were more baptisms on our foreign missionary field last year than ever before during one year.

There is much to encourage us in going forward in Foreign Missionary work. To hesitate or to fail is to let golden opportunities pass unimproved.

From Christ comes the command to preach the gospel to the whole world; from Him is the power; and to Him be the glory, world without end. Amen.

A. P. PUGH, Chairman.

The Moderator appointed the following brethren to re-

port on Ministerial Education this afternoon, to-wit: Rev. A. P. Pugh, D. A. Caylor, and J. A. Beverly.

None of the Committee on Education being present, the Moderator appointed Brothers D. A. Caylor, E. A. Brooks, and J. H. Cogdell to prepare that report.

The Treasurer's report was read and adopted.

To the Centennial Association:

Herewith I hand you my twelfth annual report showing all monies received and disbursed by me since my last annual report:

1898.		
Oct. 5.	To balance on hand last report	\$ 21.89
Oct. 13.	To cash for State Missions	7.67
	" " " " " v	10.47
	" " " Foreign Missions	24.80
	" " " Association Missions	2.38
	" " " Home Missions	11.15
	" " " " "	18.00
	" " " Orphanage	12.30
	" " " " v	7.36
	" " " Minutes	15.40
1899	" " " C. Crawley's widow	3.96
May 22	" " " Ministerial Education	2.50
	To balance due Treasurer	.31

1898		CR.	\$149.99
Oct. 13.	By cash paid A. J. Preston	V No. 1	\$10.47
	" " " F. O. Bickley, Clerk	2	10.00
	" " " Jno. W. Stewart	3	7.36
Nov. 5.	" " " W. C. Bledsoe, Secy.	4	7.67
	" " " " " "	4	11.15
	" " " " " "	4	24.80
	" " " Jno. W. Stewart	5	12.30
	" " " W. A. Hobson for Thomas	6	29.80
Nov. 7.	" " " C. Crawley's widow	7	7.34
9.	" " " W. A. Hobson for Thomas	8	8.10
1899			
Jan. 9.	" " " Minutes	9	18.50
May 22.	" " " W. A. Hobson for Thomas	10	2.50
			<hr/>
			\$ 149.99

Oct. 4. To balance due Treasurer \$.31

Respectfully submitted,

Oct. 4, 1899.

B. T. ELEY, Treasurer.

Add to Treasurer's Report:

Oct. 13.	To cash for Min. Education	\$11.80
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At 11 o'clock the Association took a recess for preaching. Sermon preached by Rev. A. F. Dix, text, Col. 3:12.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Devotional exercises conducted by Rev. G. W. Harrison.

The Moderator called the Association to order and the report on Ministerial Education was read and adopted, and collection taken and pledges made as follows: Aberfoil \$2.50, Fitzpatrick \$5, Greenwood \$2.50, Hardaway \$5, Indian Creek \$5, Liberty \$5, Mt. Zion \$5, Perote \$5, Union Springs \$25. Total \$60.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your committee on Ministerial Education would earnestly urge upon our churches the vast importance of an educated ministry. The Bible says a minister should be "apt to teach" and be able to "rightly divide the word of truth". Howard College is open for our young ministers to prepare them in literature, and our Southern Baptist Theological Seminary gives them their needed instruction in Theology. We would commend as most worthy of our aid, Brother Thomas M. Thomas. He is now pursuing his literary course at Howard College.

Respectfully submitted.

A. P. PUGH, JOHN GRAY, J. A. BEVERLY.

The Moderator announced the following standing committees to report at the next session of the Association, to-wit: On State Missions—Jas. Jones, Jas. Bates, Jr., H. J. McGilvrey.

On Home Missions—Rev. B. Broome, T. M. Hough, J. D. Brooks.

On Foreign Missions—Rev. G. W. Harrison, W. L. O'Neill, J. P. Davis.

On Education—R. L. Prince, J. P. Downing, J. S. Finlayson.

On Deceased, Aged, and Infirm Ministers and Their Families—E. A. Brooks, M. B. Phillips, C. W. Pitts.

On Sunday Schools—J. A. Lynch, E. W. Starke, W. A. Powell.

On the State of the Churches and the Associational Field.—C. A. Davis, T. M. Gholston, W. R. King.

On Temperance—J. A. Beverly, W. L. O'Neill, M. F. McLendon.

On Orphans' Home—D. A. Caylor, J. F. Martin, W. T. Maddox.

On Ministerial Education—J. H. Cogdell, J. L. Childs, V. H. Tillery.

On Institute Work—Rev. A. P. Pugh, J. E. Jenkins, T. J. Bates.

On Religious Literature—A. W. Beverly, G. W. Davis, J. P. Rotton.

On motion the pastors of the different churches are requested and expected to take a more active part in their churches in raising contributions for missions.

Report on Documents was read and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

We the committee on Documents beg leave to report: The time has come in our history when our people must be posted as to our plans and objects. In order for this to be accomplished we must we must urge our people to read our literature. We would heartily recommend the Alabama Baptist, the Christian Index, the Texas Baptist Standard, and Western Recorder. For Sunday School literature, every Baptist church in the South ought to send to Dr. Frost at Nashville, Tenn. We would call especial attention to minutes of the State Convention, and of the Southern Baptist Convention. They are Official Documents of the greatest importance and should be carefully read by all who are interested in our work.

Respectfully submitted,
W. C. HUFHAM, Chairman.

Committee on Nominations reported as follows:

Your committee on Nominations make the following report: 1st. We recommend that the Association hold its next session with Mt. Carmel Church, on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, 1900. 2nd. That Elder G. W. Harrison preach the introductory sermon, and that the sermon be preached after the organization of the body. 3rd. That the district meeting for the eastern district of the Association be held with Aberfoil church, and that of the western district to be held with Mt. Zion church, the time to be chosen by the churches with which the meeting is to be held. 4th. That Brothers B. T. Eley, F. O. Bickley, J. H. Rainer, Sr., D. G. Jones, A. C. May, Jas. Bates, Sr., C. W. Sellers, and Elders B. Broome, G. W. Harrison, and A. P. Pugh be the delegates to the Baptist State Convention, and that Elder A. P. Pugh be the delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention.

J. E. JENKINS, Chairman.

Miscellaneous business called for, when Fitzpatrick church asked for a letter of dismission to join the Montgomery Association, which was granted.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be heartily given to the Fitzpatrick Baptist church and community

for their very kind and generous and abundant hospitality to the delegates and visitors during the session of the body.

A. P. PUGH.

Return correspondents as follows: To the Eufaula Association, Rev. G. W. Harrison and A. A. Cope. The Troy Association, Revs. A. P. Pugh and G. W. Harrison.

On motion the Clerk was instructed to correct any errors he may find in resolutions or reports submitted during the session of the Association.

Report on Education was read and adopted:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your committee beg to submit the following: 1st. That we are glad to be able to report a higher sentiment among our people relative to the education of our children.

2nd. That there is an effort among our people to centralize the schools, thereby securing more efficient teachers and longer terms.

3rd. That there is a very strict law in our state governing the examination of teachers, making it next to impossible for inefficient teachers to teach in our public schools.

4th. That our Baptist schools are being well organized, and that they are presided over by Baptist teachers who are noted for their piety, efficiency and consecration to Baptist doctrines and principles.

5th. That our state legislature has raised the rate of taxation for public schools, which will be available next year and, will amount to about \$200,000 in addition to our present funds.

We recommend, (a) That our parents see to it, first of all, that they give their children an education, for ignorance is the mother of bigotry and prejudice, the gist of which nailed to the cross the greatest enlightener and liberator ever known to the world. (b) Howard College, East Lake, Alabama, and the Judson Institute, Marion, Alabama, as being great institutions of learning, the benefits of which all our children should receive. (c) The Southeast Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute, Newton, Alabama, which was adopted by this body at its last session and became our school in connection with the Baptists of Southeast Alabama.

In conclusion we insist upon the education of our Baptist children not only in the arts and sciences but in the Scriptures and our denominational work. For we as a Christian denomination have convictions peculiarly our own, and we believe peculiar to the Bible, hence it is the part of Christian manhood to hold the courage of our convictions. Have

them intelligently formed, prayerfully maintained and charitably promulgated.

Respectfully submitted, D. A. CAYLOR, Chairman.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOL.

We your committee appointed to report on Sunday School, beg leave to report. The Sunday School is an important factor in Christian work. We are sorry to say that our schools are neglected in several churches. The old as well as young need be trained in the teaching of the Bible. We believe there is no place like the Sunday School for that purpose. Here are the minds indoctrinated in the principles taught in God's word. Every church should strive to have a Sunday School. We hope throughout our Association will take more interest in training the minds of the young, for it is more lasting when inculcated while young. Most respectfully submitted, W. C. HUFHAM, Chairman.

REPORT ON AGED MINISTERS AND FAMILIES.

Your committee on Deceased, Aged and Infirm Ministers and their Families report as follows: We are thankful to God that He has preserved the lives of our Ministers another year. Our aged brother, Rev. M. N. Eley, is still among us, waiting and watching for the Master's call. We recommend to your body that you donate something to supply the needs of our deceased Brother Crawley's family.

Respectfully submitted,

E. A. BROOKS, M. J. SMITH, H. J. MCGILVER.

REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE.

Your committee on Auditing having carefully examined the report of B. T. Eley, Treasurer, find the same correct and recommend its adoption, and, also, the report of the finance committee and recommend its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES JONES, Chairman.

The committee on Religious Exercises announced that there will be a Sunday school mass meeting to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, and Bro. Pugh will preach at 11.

On motion the present Executive Committee was re-elected, to-wit: Elders M. N. Eley, and A. P. Pugh, Brethren George Williams, B. T. Eley, F. O. Bickley, T. M. Gholston, J. E. Jenkins, J. L. Childs, W. A. Powell.

On motion the Clerk was paid \$15.00 for his services.

The Association adjourned to meet with Mt. Carmel church, on Thursday before the second Sunday in Oct. 1900.

GEO. WILLIAMS, Moderator.

F. O. BICKLEY, Clerk.

Sunday Morning, 9 o'clock, Brother G. G. Miles delivered an impressive Sunday school address, and at 11 o'clock Brother A. P. Pugh preached; text, Luke 20:24; after which a collection was taken for State Missions amounting to \$6.85.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

M. N. Eley, Union Springs; J. O. Hixson, Union Springs; A. P. Pugh, Union Springs; G. W. Harrison, Perote; B. Broome Pickett; J. A. Jenkins, Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; T. M. Thomas, Howard College, East Lake; G. L. Yates, Fitzpatrick.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Association Called to Order.
2. Singing and Prayer.
3. Reading letters from the Churches.
4. Election of Officers by Ballot.
5. Receive Correspondence.
6. Introductory Sermon.
7. Appoint Committees—On Preaching ; Documents ; Finance ; Nominations.
8. Receive Petitionary Letters.
9. Reports of Committees—Executive ; Foreign Missions ; Domestic Missions ; Sabbath Schools ; Education ; Nominations ; Deceased Ministers ; Documents ; Finance ; Treasurer.
10. Reports of Special Committees.
11. Miscellaneous Business.
12. Return Correspondence.
13. Appoint Standing Committees.
14. Call the Roll and Read the Minutes.
15. Adjournment.

Statistics of Centennial Association, for Year 1899.

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTOR	CLERK	CLERK'S POST OFFICE	Membership Last Report	Increase				Decrease				Present Membership	SUNDAY SCHOOL		Preaching Sabbaths	
						Baptism	Letter	Voucher	Restoration	Letter	Exclusion	Death	Office & t'chrs		Pupils	Supt. Name and P. O.		
Aberfoill	Bullock	J. A. Jenkins	J. A. Beverly	Inverness	24	16	1			1			38		6	36	W. C. Hufham, Fitzpatrick	3rd
Fairview	"	B. Broome	W. T. Mattox	Pine Grove	51	3							48					
Fitzpatrick	"	W. J. Elliott	John Gray	Fitzpatrick	24	6	4						34					
Greenwood	"	G. W. Harrison	H. F. Kirby	"	36	4			1				33		8	56	C. A. Davis, Hardaway	3rd
Hardaway	Macon	"	C. A. Davis	Hardaway	52	10	1		1				56		7	24	E. A. Brooks, Perote	2
Indian Creek	Bullock	"	G. A. Norris	Perote	51	7	2		3				59		5	25	W. A. Powell, Post Oak	1
Loflin	Pike	"	W. C. Dozier	Josie	79								71		5	40	W. L. O'Neill, Shopton	1
Liberty	Bullock	H. R. Schramm	T. M. Hough	Mascotte	44	15	11		2				51					
Macedonia	"	J. A. Jenkins	W. A. C. May	"	49	5	2						85		6	30	E. W. Starke, Perote	3
Midway	Montgomery	A. F. Dix	W. L. O'Neill	Shopton	112	1	2						112					
Mt. Carmel	Bullock	H. R. Schramm	Jas. Jones	"	47								44					
Mt. Zion	"	D. C. Allen	Jas. Bates, Jr.	Inverness	32								37					
Perote	"	W. H. Simmons	J. R. McDowell	Perote	290	6	18	1					300		13	135	B. T. Fley, Union Springs	1
Sardis	"	J. O. Hixson	J. F. Martin	Union Springs	100	70	40						1132		50	340		
Union Springs	"	A. P. Pugh	Geo. Williams	"	1000	70	40						1132		50	340		
Total																		all

Financial Exhibit of Centennial Association, for Year 1899.

CHURCHES	State Mis--Cash..	State Mis--Vchr	Home Mis--Cash	Home Mis--Vchr	For. Mis--Cash	For. Mis--Vchr.	Institute Work	Associational	Disc'd Min. Families	Min. Ed.	College Bldgs-V.	Incidental-V.	Orph'ns Home	Minutes	Pastor's Salary	Rep. and New B.	Poor, Fuel, S. S., Etc.	TOTAL
Aberfoill	\$ 1 65		\$ 1 65		\$ 1 65									50	35 00	150 00		194 95
Fairview			1 70	9 57	1 00	9 00								50				5 70
Fitzpatrick			2 00		2 00									1 00				56 20
Greenwood			2 00		2 00									1 50				6 50
Hardaway			3 00		2 00			75						1 50				12 20
Indian Creek ..														1 50				18 25
Lodlin														1 05				8 05
Liberty			2 00		1 00									50				15 50
Macedonia			1 00		2 00									50				4 50
Midway			2 50		2 00									2 00				7 00
Mt. Carmel														1 00				10 05
Mt. Zion					2 00									1 50				10 05
Perote														50				8 31
Sardis	11 35													50				16 85
Union Springs ..		25 48		32 45		10 75												19 05
Sunday sch'l ..		29 00																1526 52
B. Y. P. U.															900 00	110 00		165 20
S. S. Lit.																		4 12
W'm'n M.S.C.																		32 27
Aid Society																		15 95
Col. at Assoc'n ..	6 85																	500 00
Total	34 05	89 96	13 85	42 02	11 65	39 82	5 05	75	4 11	14 51	36 89	532 27	45 30	14 05	935 00	250 00	19 05	2649 93

Value of Property: Union Springs, \$6250.00; Aberfoill, \$500.00. Total, \$6,750.00

